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25X1A2g

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INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Ecuador

SUBJECT Communist Attempts to Influence Government
Police at Ancon
25X1A2g

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SUPPLEMENT TO 25X1A2g
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1. Communist influence on Ecuadoran government police assigned to the Ancon oil district has diminished considerably in recent months because of government interference.
2. The Plaza administration recently assigned a new Guardia Civil commander to the Ancon region to reorganize and discipline the police. The new captain is rapidly dispersing the police guards under Communist influence to different sections of the country and has introduced certain disciplinary measures. Previous to this change in command the Anglo Ecuadoran Oil Company officials had considered the situation as "dangerous" since the police were very sympathetic toward the Communists. This sentiment was seen when the company demanded that the police arrest Communists who were officially charged by fellow members of the Oil Workers Syndicate with embezzlement of union funds.* The police refused to comply with the company's orders and the Communists were allowed to escape. Control of the police is complicated by the fact that the troops are paid, fed, hospitalized, and quartered by the Anglo Ecuadoran Oil Company, but the government still has complete authority over their discipline and control.
3. Another factor in the weakening of Communist influence was the government's refusal to allow the police the right to join the Ancon Oil Workers Syndicate. Local Communists had influenced the police to ask for this right as it would give the police full labor benefits and, more important, would give the Communists a greater control over the troops, as the syndicate's leadership is dominated by the Communists.

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Comment. The publicly exposed fraud perpetrated on the oil workers by Communist labor leaders has weakened the entire Communist position as far as penetrating the Ancon oil fields is concerned. An expected strike which was to have been called for February 1949 is known to have been postponed because of lack of organization and the loss of the workers' strike fund.

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